

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A trailer coupler pivot assembly comprising:

a pivot mount member ~~connected~~ having a pivot bore and a locking pin bore and at least one integral welding flange extending rearwardly therefrom for connecting said pivot mount member to a trailer frame member;

a hinge bracket ~~connected~~ having a pivot bore and a locking pin bore and at least one integral welding flange extending rearwardly therefrom for connecting said hinge bracket to a trailer tongue arm, wherein said hinge bracket is pivotally connected to said pivot mount member so that said trailer tongue arm is pivotal relative to said trailer frame member between an open position and a closed position; and

wherein either said pivot mount member or said hinge bracket comprises a single, prefabricated component.

2. (Currently Amended) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 1 ~~where~~ wherein both said pivot mount member and said hinge bracket comprise single, ~~prefabricate~~ prefabricated components.

3. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 2 wherein said pivot mount member is manufactured from cast metal.

4. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 2 wherein said pivot mount member is manufactured from powdered metal.

5. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 2 wherein said hinge bracket is manufactured from cast metal.

6. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 2 wherein said hinge bracket is manufactured from powdered metal.

7. (Currently Amended) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 2 wherein said hinge bracket is pivotally ~~connect~~ connected to said pivot mount member along a substantially vertical axis so that the trailer tongue arm pivots relative to said trailer frame member between ~~and~~ an open position and a closed position through a substantially horizontal plane.

8. (Currently Amended) A trailer coupler pivot assembly comprising:

a coupler tongue arm;

a trailer frame member;

a single prefabricated mount member having at least one integral welding flange extending rearwardly therefrom for connecting said pivot mount member ~~capable of mounting to~~ said trailer frame member;

a single prefabricated hinge bracket having at least one integral welding flange extending rearwardly therefrom for connecting said hinge bracket ~~capable of mounting to~~ said coupler tongue arm, wherein said hinge bracket is pivotally connected to said pivot mount member so that said trailer tongue arm is pivotal relative to said trailer frame member between an open position and a closed position, wherein said open position permits said coupler tongue arm to pivot to a position so as to decrease the overall length of the trailer.

9. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 8 wherein said hinge bracket further comprises a pair of integral support members having a pivot mount receiving portion therebetween.

10. (Currently Amended) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 9 wherein said hinge bracket further comprises a pair of integral confronting welding flanges extending rearwardly from said support members and capable of being welded to the coupler tongue arm.

11. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 10 wherein said support members are vertically oriented relative to each other and wherein each said support member includes a pair of opposed bores extending therethrough, wherein the bores of each support member are vertically aligned with the corresponding bores of the other support member so as to define a pivot axis and a lock axis.

12. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 9 wherein said pivot mount member further comprises a pair of integral sleeve portions configured to be pivotally received with the pivot mount receiving portion of said hinge bracket when the pivot assembly is in a closed position.

13. (Currently Amended) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 12 wherein said pivot mount member further comprises a pair of integral confronting welding flanges extending rearwardly from said pivot mount member and capable of being welded to the trailer frame member.

14. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 13 wherein said sleeve portions are horizontally oriented relative to each other and wherein each said sleeve portion includes a vertical bore therethrough, wherein one vertical bore is vertically aligned between corresponding bores in said support members to define a pivot axis.

15. (Currently Amended) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 14 wherein said other vertical bore of said other sleeve section is vertically aligned between the other corresponding bores is in said support members when said coupler arm is pivoted to said closed position to define a pin-receiving bore alignment for ~~prevent~~ preventing pivotal movement of said coupler arm.

16. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 15 wherein a removable pin is capable of insertion through said pin-receiving bore alignment when said coupler arm is rotated to a closed position.

17. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 16 wherein said pivot mount member further includes an aperture therethrough so as to provide access to the interior of said trailer frame member when said pivot mount member is connected thereto.

18. (Original) The trailer coupler pivot assembly of claim 17 wherein a grease zerk is located between said pair of sleeves of said pivot mount member so that grease can be inserted therein and hidden inside the pivot assembly during a closed position to minimize the potential for rust bonding between the hinge bracket and the pivot mount member.

19. (New) A trailer coupler pivot assembly comprising:

a pivot mount member having a pivot bore and a locking pin bore, said pivot member capable of mounting to a trailer frame member;

a hinge bracket having a pivot bore and a locking pin bore, said hinge bracket capable of mounting to a trailer tongue arm wherein said hinge bracket is pivotally connected to said pivot mount member coaxially along said pivot bores so that said trailer tongue arm is pivotal relative to said trailer frame member between an open position and a closed position; and

wherein either said pivot mount member or said hinge bracket comprises a single, prefabricated component.